

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W

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R 311128 Z MAR 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9443
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5328

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR III SITREP-31 MARCH 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAR 31
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0046

1. THE PROVINCE CHIEF, BIEN HOA PROVINCE ANNOUNCED THAT CURFEW HOURS WILL BE FROM MIDNIGHT UNTIL 6:00 A. M. IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS (ALL URBAN) OF BIEN HOA PROVINCE: DOWTOWN BIEN HOA (BINH TRUOC VILLAGE); THE VILLAGES OF BUI TIENG, TAM HIEP, HO NAI, BIEN HOA AND TAN VAN IN DUC TU DISTRICT; AND THE VILLAGES OF HOA AN AND DONG HOA IN DI AN DISTRICT. CURFEW HOURS IN OTHER AREAS OF BIEN HOA PROVINCE REMAIN UNCHANGED.

2. GRVN POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEES PROPAGANDIZING IN DUC TU DISTRICT, BIEN HOA, HAVE RUN INTO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GRVN' S RECENTLVY ANNOUNCED OFFER OF NATIONAL ENTERPRISES FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC. THE QUESTIONERS SUSPECT THAT THE SELLERS ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITH THE RECEIPTS. NATURALLY, THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEES ARE UNPROGRAMMED FOR THIS QUESTION AND UNPREPARED TO ANSWER IT.

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3. IN SOUTHERN BIEN HOA, THERE IS CONTINUED LOW- LEVEL COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY AND GRVN RESPONSE, AND PEOPLE FEAR AN ENEMY ATTACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN LONG THANH DISTRICT, IT WAS REPORTED MARCH 28 THAT THE COMMUNIST HAD INCREASED THEIR MILITARY FORCES IN THAI THIEN, LONG PHUOC AND LOC AN VILLAGES WITH A VIEW TOWARD HAMLET- AND LAND- GRABBING. IN RESPONSE, THE SUB- SECTOR RECEIVED A BATTALION OF THE ARVN 18 TH INFANTRY DIVISION, WHOSE OPERATIONS SUPPRESSED NVA/ VC ACTIVITY SOMEWHAT. HOWEVER, ARVN SEARCH OPERATIONS IN AREAS WHERE THE NVA/ VC ARE THOUGHT TO BE PRESENT HAVE NOT YET PRODUCED ANY RESULTS. NATIONAL POLICE ANTI- VCI OPERATIONS ARE PRODUCING ARRESTS OF SOME SUSPECTED SUPPLIERS.

4. IN NEIGHBORING NHON TRACH DISTRICT, THE PEOPLE OF BEN CAM HAMLET REPORTED MARCH 28 THAT THE VC HAD ENTERED THEIR HAMLET THE PREVIOUS EVENING TO ASK THE PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE FOOD AND HELP THEM " CONSOLIDATE THE (VC) VILLAGE AND HAMLET GOVERNMENT." IN PHUOC AN VILLAGE THE VC ARE REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHING A LIST OF YOUNG MEN FROM 15 YEARS UP FOR THEIR " REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH," TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE VC POLICIES IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE PHASE. THE PEOPLE REPORT THAT ON MARCH 29, ON THE BORDER BETWEEN LONG PHUOC VILLAGE (LONG THANH DISTRICT) AND PHUOC LONG AND PHUOC LAI VILLAGES (NHON TRACH DISTRICT), THEY DISCOVERED SEVERAL TINS OF RICE AND INDIVIDUAL BUNKERS ONLY RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED BY THE VC, PERHAPS A COMPANY- SIZED UNIT. THE PEOPLE HERE ALSO FEAR AN EARLY VC ATTACK. SOME PEOPLE IN NHON TRACH AND LONG THANH HAVE BEEN BUYING UP FOODSTUFFS IN ANTICIPATION OF EARLY MILITARY ACTIVITY.

5. VC/ NVA ACTIVITY WAS MODERATE THROUGHOUT MR III EXCEPT FOR THE CONTINUING ATTACK ON TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP. THE OUTPOST RECEIVED ANOTHER 130 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ROCKETS IN 7 SEPARATE ABFS THROUGH 1200 HOURS ON 30 MARCH. FIVE MORE RANGERS WERE WOUNDED. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 10 INCIDENTS IN 6 OF MR III' S 11 PROVINCES IN WHICH THE VC/ NVA LOST 5 KILLED AND ONE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 4 WOUNDED. THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN A ROCKET ATTACK ON THE 351 ST RF BATTALION 9 KM EAST OF TAY NINH CITY. A BRIEF BUT SHARP GROUND ACTION OCCURRED 6 KM EAST OF TRANG BANG DISTRICT SEAT ON THE TAY NINH/ HAU NGHIA PROVINCE BORDER WHEN AN UNKNOWN SIZE HOSTILE FORCE ATTACKED THE 2 ND BATTALION OF THE ARVN 46 TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CONDUCTING
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SECURITY OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. THE VC/ NVA LOST 13 KILLED

WHILE ARVN CASUALTIES WERE 4 KILLED AND 5 WOUNDED. ARVN III
CORPS REPORTS ALL POPULATION CENTERS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION,
EXCEPT QL#13 NORTH OF LAI KHE IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, TO BE
SECURE AND OPEN TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. MR III HEADQUARTERS G2
BELIEVES VC/ NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS IDENTIFIED AS BEING LOCATED
IN MR III ARE DEPLOYED DEFENSIVELY TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR
VC/ NVA CONTROLLED AREAS AND INTELLIGENCE DOES NOT POINT TO AN
OFFENSIVE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
BENNETT

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED, WILL SERVICE UPON REQUEST.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimka.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980109
Subject: DAILY MR III SITREP-31 MARCH 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAR 31 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO
QUOTE BIEN HOA 0046
TAGS: MILI, PINT, VS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CAN THO
DANANG
JEC PARIS
MULTIPLE
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005